

- Hall and Engel Secure \$352,500 for the Rockland County Youth Bureau Gang Prevention Program in 2008 Spending Bill - Washington, DC – Federal funding secured by U.S. Representatives John Hall (D-NY19) and Eliot Engel (D-NY17) is coming for the Rockland County Youth Bureau Gang Prevention Program. The \$352,500 that Congress passed last month will help fund further programs to offer alternatives to gang life for young people. The funding secured by the Congressmen was included in the Omnibus Appropriations Act, the final 2008 spending bill, which passed by both Houses of Congress last month. It has been signed by the President, and is now officially law.

Rep. Engel said, "Gangs have an appeal to young people that we must counteract, because it is from youth gangs that criminal organizations grow. By stopping gang formation now, we not only help our young people to mature into responsible adults, we maintain law and order now and in the future."

"We must stop the growth of gangs in Rockland County," said Hall. "The Rockland Gang Prevention Program is working to curb the appeal of gang activity. Increased resources will help them to continue their outreach and stop the spread of gang violence in Rockland County."

The Gang Prevention Program began as a collaboration between key law enforcement officials, county youth services offices, and local schools. There are currently two police officers working on anti-gang programs under the offices of the County District Attorney and County Sheriff. Federal funding will allow the Bureau to expand this work.

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